and Germany and the statesmen responsible for the Soviet Russia, have not been able to find out satisfactory solutions not only for the existing difficulties but also of those that loom large before the world in the future. Prudence therefore requires that we should concentrate ourselves now on the present and see that what we do at present does not, so far as it is possible for human intelligence, lead us to any embarrassment in the future. The budget that the Finance Member will present before you in the course of an hour or two has been drawn up bearing this aspect of the present position prominently in mind. We have only taken care of the present and the immediate future in our budget estimates, as you will see instantly. We cannot safely venture to go beyond that.

The bonds of destiny are unbreakable, and I feel that there is a bond of destiny between you and my humble self or what we Hindus call "Karma Bandham." I never thought that, when I addressed you on the last occasion I had the honour of presiding over this Council, and appealed to you to extend to your parting colleague all kindness, consideration and sympathy, in conducting the proceedings of this House, I would be vouchsafed a repetition of the honour. Now that destiny has again made the honour mine, I appeal to you once more most earnestly to treat me as one of you and to help me in carrying on the business of this House in that orderly and dignified manner which has been the tradition of this House for the last one decade.

I miss the pleasant face of our veteran Deputy President, Dr. A. G. Menon and hope that you will all join with me in wishing him speedy recovery from his present illness.

Questions and Answers.

Longest hours of work and smallest wages.

1. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state the longest hours of work and the smallest wages, prevalent in our State ?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The longest hours of work generally prevalent in the State are 12 hours.

The lowest wage prevalent generally is 3 annas.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Do the Government consider this state of affairs to be a permissible state of affairs?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I don't exactly understand the question.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Do the Government think that this is a state of affairs that can be tolerated by the State?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Working 12 hours a day—I don't think.

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Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Wages also.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The lowest rate is 3 annas. I want notice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know, Sir, what they intend to do to reform the situation?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—If the Government find it necessary, steps will be taken.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What kind of steps, may I know?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Some Regulations have to be passed.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—How did the Government get this information?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—From the District Magistrate and some other officers who are supervising the working in the mills. These officers are bound to go and inspect these mills and other places. We got the information from these officers. The Tahsildars are also asked to go to these places and make enquiries.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is the wage of 3 annas for females or males?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Females.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—May I know the number of hours they have to work for getting 3 annas.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is the 3 annas for one whole day?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The question was only with regard to the lowest wage. So, that information we have been able to supply.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—When the officer was asked to collect information was not any information given him for how many hours or what period the wages are meant?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The question was sent to the officers concerned and they were asked to supply the information to furnish the necessary answers.

Extent of land under cultivation.

2. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to question No. 627 of the last sitting, regarding the organisation of our Agricultural Territory, will the Government be pleased to explain how 1/6 per cent (approx.) increase, indicated by their own figures of acreage under cultivation within a period of 5 long years can justify their statement in section (d) that "The Government are taking all possible steps to increase the extent of land under cultivation"; (2) and also place on the table the information, mentioned in (c)?

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